



TOP OF THE HILL



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205
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April Fools Issue

MBA Drops Sports Requirement

By Reid Ragsdale

All students know that they are required to participate in a sport throughout their MBA careers. Students must find a balance between academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. To ease the decision of how to balance these fields, MBA has decided to drop the sports requirement to allow students to focus on more than just athletics. We hope that through the new rule, students with increased interests in arts can focus more time on those fields. The ability not to have to stay after school for a long time will also open up more time for family.

Another reason MBA is dropping sports is the stress it puts on a student. We are already an academically competitive school, but adding another layer of pressure in sports is not healthy for 13 to 15 year olds. Also, most young

athletes do not recognize the physical toll they are putting on their bodies with sports. Releasing the sports requirement will allow students to go without injury in an important time of growth. Even though the sports requirement is dropped, it does not mean that students will not be able to play sports. You can still stay active on the football, soccer, or any team, but you are not forced to join. Some might argue that strong bonds are formed on the field, and that is a valid argument, but bonds can also be formed in academic and arts groups just as well as on sports teams.

Personally, I believe that this decision will benefit many students who are having a hard time academically or do not find success or interest in sports. While I do believe that playing a sport will keep you physically in shape, some people might not be as concerned about that subject. As a student, I do find it challenging to balance academics, arts, and sports. I believe that students invested in more than just sports will be

able to thrive when they have more time to commit to those fields.

In conclusion, I am excited to see what students will commit to now that they are allowed to dedicate their time to activities besides sports. I believe that we might compete better in academic or art competitions if we are more invested in those subjects. While this decision might not be

popular with everyone, we can all agree that balancing academics, arts, and sports is a tough challenge. The deletion of the requirement will ease the life of MBA students who dedicate so much time to the school.



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URGENT MESSAGE!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

By Ian Durelli

Attention Junior School students! The following information was shared with *Top of the Hill* in order to prepare students for some major changes coming next year. So, I am making three urgent announcements today. One of these has to do with food, and the others have to do with our schedules.

1. JUNIOR SCHOOL ADVISORIES WILL NO LONGER BE PERMITTED TO HAVE FOOD IN THE MORNINGS. If you do not follow the new food rules, demerits will be issued. This decision was agreed upon by the faculty. The new rule has been instituted due to the unruly manner of students when there is food. Teachers have been claiming that students come to class less attentive and occasionally on sugar highs or sick. Instead of taking morning time to study material for classes, students have been indulging in donuts and sodas. As a result, on Fridays, students perform lower on tests and quizzes and often forget their homework. This directly correlates to the fact that most advisories have food on Fridays. Because Fridays have later starts, this day has been planned to be a day to do work in the morning or study. And yet, the day has become a day of gluttony and lower grades. Food and drink will also not be allowed outside the dining hall. This new rule means **NO FOOD AT BREAK OUTSIDE OF THE DINING HALL.** This ban of food also includes club meetings inside Massey.



Typical Friday Advisory Food - Warning can cause sugar high

2. The next rule is one most students will not support. Beginning the week of April 9, **ASSEMBLIES WILL TAKE PLACE ON BOTH MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS.** This rule has been made due to the fact so many assemblies are running over the time limit. Both assemblies will take the entire break period, but will rarely run over, like they typically do now. These assemblies will include a guest speaker on Monday, and a overview of MBA news on Thursday.

This change creates more time for the speakers on Monday. It also decreases the rush to discuss MBA news such as recent sporting events and academic competitions and dedicates more time and attention to each accomplishment, along with allowing a speaker to give a more in-depth speech.

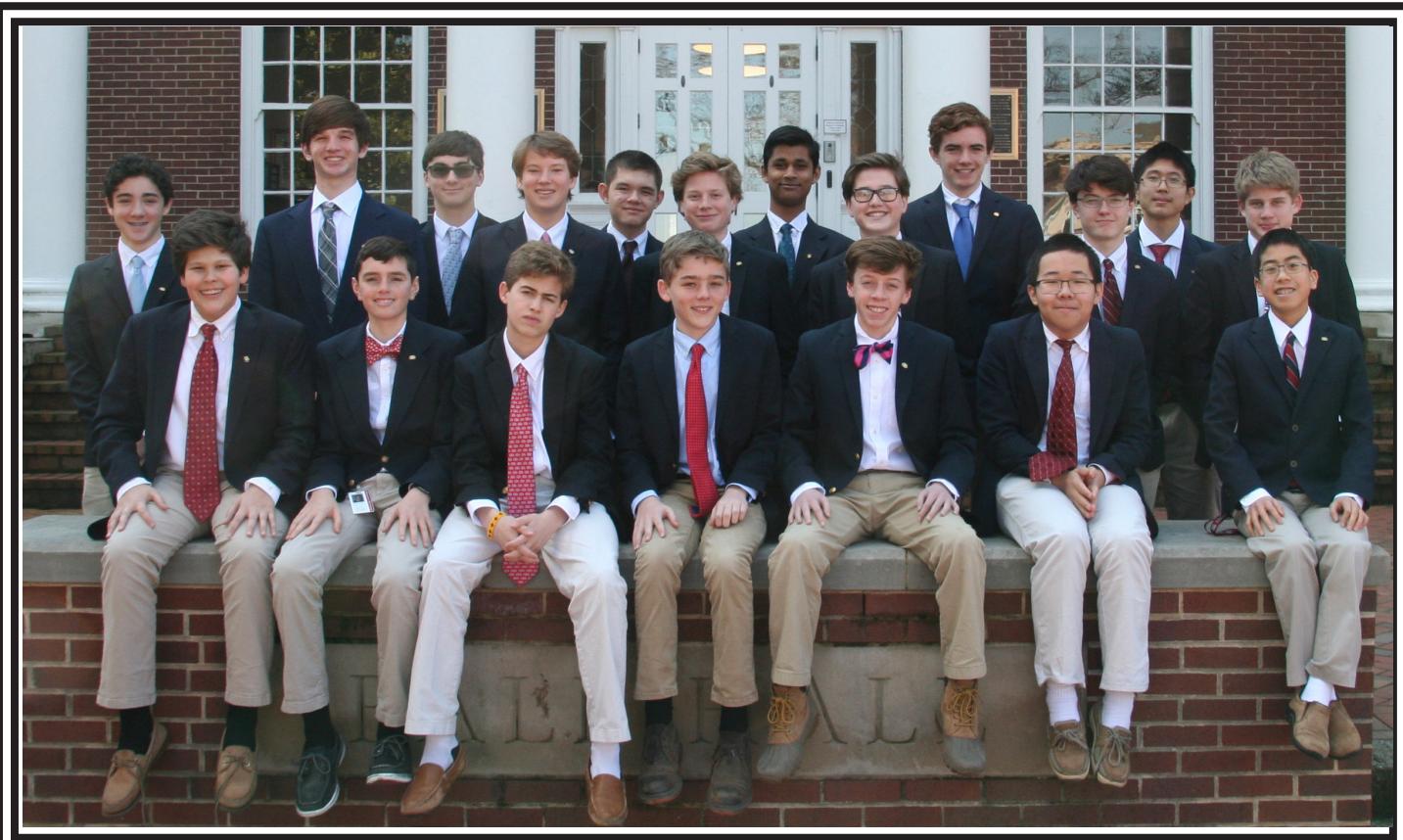
3. The last and most important announcement is a massive transformation in our schedules. **MBA WILL USE A BLOCK SCHEDULE AS OF NEXT YEAR.** Instead of having eight 50 minute periods every day, the block schedule will consist of four periods every day. Each of the four periods will be an hour and half. First period starts after advisory at 8(except for Friday), and goes until 9:30. The second period class will go from 9:30-11. At 11:00-11:30, there will be break or assembly. After break/assembly, third period will be 11:30-1:00. This change causes lunch time to be much later, starting at 1:00 and going until 1:45, which means a five minute shorter lunch also. After lunch, fourth period class will be from 1:45-3:15. The following day, you will take the other four classes.

MAKING THE MOST OF A
**90-MINUTE
BLOCK**



Junior Honor Society Inductees

Congratulations on a Job Well Done!



Spring 2018 Junior Honor Society Inductees

Max Buenahora
Dhruv Chandra
Parker Davis
John Dayani
Ryan DeCoster
Carter Gold
Garrett Goodrum
Joe Grant
William Gu
Gene Herrmann
William Holleman

Jack Keller
Tyler Laub
Larson Looney
Jack McMillen
Joshua Mi
Austin Murphy
Bill Ouyang
Reid Ragsdale
Denton Sensing
Adam Wang
Braden Zeigler

A Student's Vision of Our 90 Million Dollar Future

By Ian Durelli

As most of you know, MBA received an extraordinarily large sum of money from a very generous donor, who sadly passed away in December. Mr. Horace Frank Burkholder Jr., a former student of MBA bequeathed to MBA a total of 90 million dollars. The generosity of this outstanding man will certainly have a lasting effect on MBA. So, if students had a say, what would happen as a result of the 90 million dollar gift, and what additions and changes could we expect? Here is one scenario a student might create.

For starters, the church lot has been purchased. This land could be set aside for parking, creating more room on the campus for buildings in areas that are currently parking lots. The parking lot right by the gym would be leveled for a massive athletic complex. The three story complex would be the equivalent square footage of the Massey, Ingram, and Davis Buildings combined. One half of the first floor would be an indoor swimming pool for the MBA swim team. Another team that would be happy with this athletic complex is the climbing club. There would be a 75ft rock climbing room. This room would be open for anyone, not just the rock climbing club. The second floor would be all sorts of sports, including racquetball, volleyball, and an indoor tennis court. The third floor might not be possible for the budget, but if so, there would be a bowling alley with five lanes for the bowling team. A dream athletic complex of this caliber would most likely cost 90 million itself, but the brightest minds at MBA could come



Rendering of MBA's possible "mega sports facility"

together to figure out a way to make this plan work and alleviate a possible budget crisis. The MBA Stock Market Club would probably suggest we invest the money into safe stocks or bonds with high interest rates, but some might have other plans. Like for instance, creating a safer path of putting the money into a bank and collecting lesser interest rates, but over time, gaining more money. Meanwhile, Mr. Wims, a very smart guy, might suggest we invest in Bitcoin that is at a low right now, claiming it would turn the 90mil into 200mil in a year. Just with the money we have right now, every month we keep it in a bank we get about 80,000 dollars.

This accumulation could mean



some serious bank. But let's get to what students would do with this money.

Another must have for the campus is a new football stadium. This stadium would take up all of Andrews field. So far, these student-inspired additions seem to only benefit those who like sports, but another change would benefit the scholarly aspect of our motto, not just the athletic.

Every student would receive a school laptop, free books that stay in each classroom so you do not have to carry

every book in your backpack, and free pencils as suggested by Matthew Hyde. Now that there have been athletic and scholarly suggestions to this scenario, many students would also be eager to have some lunch benefits. Chicken Patty Day would be every other week, but that's not all. Mr. McMurray has suggested an ingenious idea of investing and becoming the majority shareholder of Chick-fil-A. Not only would we have a rolling income for other additions to the school, but we would get free Chick-fil-A. Instead of paying \$6 for a sandwich, we would have free Chick-fil-A (possibly Zaxby's) every Thursday instead of pasta.

Another change MBA students could consider is looking into a joint venture with St. Cecelia across the street. MBA is cramped for room, and having little space to expand, we should attempt to come to an agreement with SCA. If they would be willing to offer some of their land to MBA to share, such a plan would mean that MBA would have more space to alleviate our land-locked situation. Plus, it would be interesting to see how MBA and the all-girl high school would coordinate classes--maybe some could be a joint undertaking. But more than likely, this idea would conflict with the all-boys factor of MBA.

While students are not part of the planning process, Mr. Burkholder's generosity has given MBA and its students the chance to dream, and for that, we are all grateful.

New Bob Ross Class: In a Nutshell

By Lain Orndorff

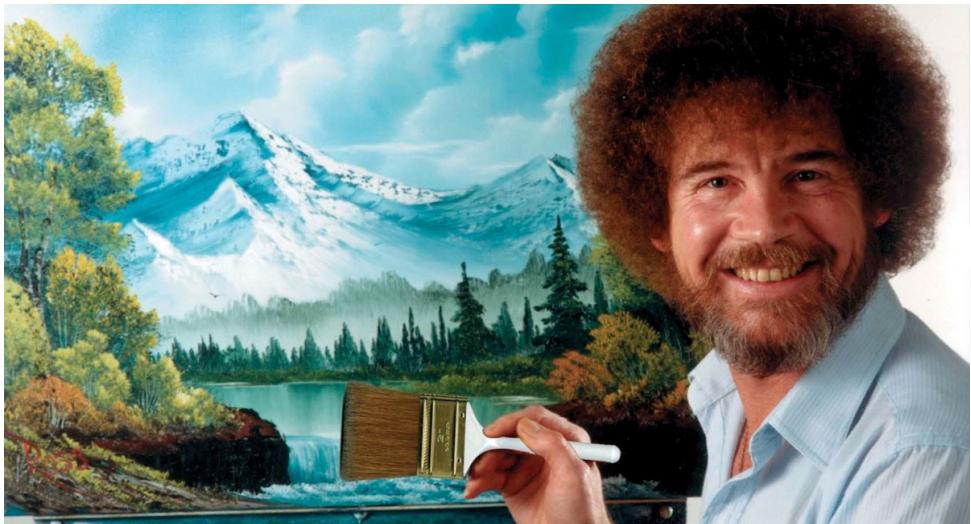
For all the Bob Ross fans out there, get ready, because MBA is adding a Bob Ross Art class to the curriculum! Many of the art teachers have been listening to an academic discussion of his amazing works, and they realize that everyone has a lot to learn from him. The class will include dissection of



"Painting 258"

his amazing works, following along with his videos and painting with them, and discussion of his life and personality. Along with access to unpublished seasons of his show, the class will take trips to see some of his paintings in person and to meet the collectors and Bob Ross historians. The class will last one semester and will count towards your total grade average.

Although the class will only be offered to juniors and seniors when it begins, under classmen are invited to join the Bob Ross Appreciation Club. If you choose



The Iconic PBS Painter, Bob Ross (1942 - 1981)

to join the club, you will be exempt from all MBA after school sports on Fridays to attend the meetings. They will last an hour and a half, consisting of a looser version of the class that will include food and drinks. Everyone is invited, and Bob Ross swag giveaways will occur at the end of every month. Also, at the end of every quarter, Bob Ross originals are randomly drawn for members who have attended every meeting so far in the year.

I sat down with Mrs. Valentine to discuss why the decisions were made for the new class. She said, "Bob Ross was such an important influence on today's art society, and the way that all of us live in general." She talked about how vital his work is to how people look at nature and think about their lives in retrospect to his. "His kindness was known world-wide and touched so many lives, you know? Beauty was not only in his paintings, but in his heart." We

continued to talk, and I asked her what she thought Bob Ross could teach her students artistically. "Bob Ross' skill is that even though the basis of his works can look like blobs of paint, they end up looking like masterpieces. You just have to be patient and trust in his process. Not only that, but the movements of his brush are always perfect and create the exact image of what it is being painted." As we continued to talk, she described watching an episode of his show, *Silent Forest*, and being amazed with the beauty of what he could put on the canvas. As a teacher, she yearned to be able to teach her students with such grace and kindness, just as Bob Ross himself. And thus, the small idea of the class was planted in her mind, which has now come true.



"Waterfall Wilderness"

Massey Will Soon Be a Green Zone!

By Reid Smith

One of the hottest topics of the year throughout the junior school has been cellphone usage in Massey. Many teachers and school administrators have actively banned cellphone usage throughout the day on campus. Some reasons for this action have been to prevent students from being distracted from school work. However, recent research has shown that cellphones have many useful apps that can enhance a student's learning through technology. Therefore, administration is creating a new rule in the junior school regarding cellphone usage in the Massey building. While throughout the rest of the campus, the policy will remain the same, there will now be



Massey's PL area soon-to-be a phone friendly zone

selected green zones in the Massey building. The zones will be located in the PL room, the waiting area outside Massey, and the area outside the conference room at the bench on the second floor of Massey. These zones will be the only places in the building where electronic devices will be allowed. There will be a two demerit punishment for use outside of these zones, such as in the hallway.

This new policy will be enforced in the 2018-2019 school year. The reasons for this new policy are three-fold. First of all, MBA will be implementing a new technology

-based curriculum into the junior school. In addition, with students having access to technology inside these green zones, the idea is that students will no longer feel the need to get on their phones during class time and study sessions. The last reason is because MBA has been falling behind in the field of technology, and administration believes the junior school needs to catch up because the future will be technology. This new policy will forever change the culture and way of learning throughout the junior school next year.



GET READY TO PERFORM! April is National Poetry Month

It is Time for the Annual Junior School Recitation Competition

Entry level performance competitions begin in each English class in April, with winners from each class moving on to the main competition in Massey Commons on Tuesday, April 10 and Wednesday, April 11.

The seventh-grade finalists and eighth-grade finalists will face off for the grade-level winners on Tuesday, April 17.

Prizes are awarded to each grade-level winner.
Contact your English teacher or Mrs. Roberts for more information.



MBA to Create Nap Room in Massey

By Frank Hancock

Studies show that most kids these days don't get as much sleep as they need to. So, the other day, our newspaper received information from Mrs. Roberts about a nap room to be created in Massey to solve this problem. This article explains all the JS needs to know about it.

The new JS Nap Room will be a comfy, relaxing, and nice place to be. The chairs will be like recliners with half-sphere domes to cover the face. If you have ever seen the Google Nap Chairs, these will be very similar to theirs. Inside the Nap Room, students, not teachers, will enjoy the pleasure of getting to relax on stressful or tiring days. Soft music is playing, and it is dark and calm. You can stay there the whole period if you want. Below is a quick Information guide to what the nap room will be like:

Location: The Nap Room replaces the 2nd Floor Massey Conference Room.

Number of Chairs: Six chairs

Requirements for Access: The requirements are the downside to the Nap Room. A student MUST be on PL to have access to the Nap Room during periods 1-8. Teachers set this requirement so that students will work harder to get on PL. Students who are on PL will be given Nap Room Days like Library Days. For non-PL students, the nap room is open 7:00-7:45 in the morning and right after school until 4:30 in the afternoon.

Requirements for Nap Room: The Nap Room has a set of rules because there must be rules for everything, even rest. The guidelines are pretty simple, no food or drink, no phones, no talking. But the most important rule of them all is NO HOMEWORK! Don't ever do homework in the Nap Room; why would you anyway?

When is the Nap Room Available: During Study Halls, Lunch, and Before and After School.

Chair Operation: The way to operate the Nap Chairs is simple. When a student comes in, the half-sphere cover will be pushed to the side. You lie down on the recliner, and then, press the CLOSE button on the control panel on the arm rest. Also, on the panel a student can select relaxing music, adjust the recline, and open up the cover.

Besides the Nap Room only be available for those students on PL, the other big downside comes for the eighth graders. This project will be installed as an over-the-summer project. By the time school starts up in August, the eighth graders will be freshmen. The Nap Room is for JS students only, no high schoolers are allowed. The current eighth graders will never have a nap room as a junior school experience; however, if they want to have one in high school, they will have to work for it.

As students, we hope that the Nap Room will become an oasis at school. Teachers will use it as a motivation tool for their students, and there will be a much more peaceful atmosphere on campus.

An Old Custom Returns to THE HILL

MBA To Revert Dress Code Back to Coat and Tie!



CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS: WIN MONEY! Jesse Hill Ford Short Story Contest

Who: 7th and 8th graders

What: Short story composed during the current school year.

Length: 3-8 pages, double-spaced

Prize: The best short story wins \$150!

Due: Wednesday, April 18th

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest

Categories: Poetry and Fiction

1st place \$50

2nd place \$35

3rd place \$10

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

Junior School Entries **Due by Wednesday, April 18th. Multiple submissions are welcome.**

SPOTLIGHT

Coach Golenor: Expert Boomerang Thrower

By William Curley

Coach Golenor is a geometry, AP Calculus AB teacher, football coach, and baseball coach at MBA. He went to high school and college in Virginia where he attended the University of Virginia. His roommate in college is also a teacher at MBA, Dr. Rader. Coach Golenor's favorite things to do are teach in B35, have fun with his kids, and play sports. Anyone who walks into his classroom will immediately notice the numerous pennants hanging from the walls and the Wang Zoo sitting on the window sill. One would also recognize the "cabinet locks," that look similar to boomerangs. What some people might not know about Coach Golenor is his amazing boomerang career.

Coach Golenor has thrown and caught boomerangs all over the world. He has been all over America, Japan, Brazil, Italy, France, and Germany. The boomerang events he attended include people from all over the world and from all walks of life. Coach described all of the people as



Coach Golenor and his "cabinet locks"

one big boomerang family. There are teachers, doctors, lawyers, etc. The people at these events are very friendly, but competitive at the same time.

Coach explained to me in an interview what a boomerang competition might be like. There are many types of events. The events test speed, accuracy, distance, time aloft, and trick catch events. Each of these are measured and judged differently. The overall score is totaled to see how well you do. In a team event all of the same events are used, but some team events, such as relays, are added to the list.

Coach Golenor has many boomerang achievements. Here is a list of a few:

- Two-time United States National Champion
- Captain of the United States National Team for ten years
- Won World Cup team championship
- One of the top 3 individual boomerang throwers in the

world

In the previous paragraph, the United States National Team is mentioned. This team consists of boomerang lovers that gather together and compete for the United States. The year Coach Golenor won the world championship with his team, it was held in Rome, Italy. Coach also has a United States record in the endurance event with a record of 78 catches in 5 minutes. Even though he is very well-rounded in all events, Coach Golenor's best events are endurance and trick catch.

Coach Golenor brings his love of boomerang to his classes and shares his awesome stories with his students. His love for sports, including boomeranging, keeps him energized and ready for anything. He has said that once the weather becomes warmer he might take his students outside to throw boomerangs. Wait, that's a great idea! Posing the question, why does the great Montgomery Bell Academy not have a boomerang club? There are many beautiful parks around Nashville that would be great to go to and enjoy boomeranging. Coach Golenor said that it was a great idea.

**FAST CATCH
BOOMERANG BATTLE**

**RICHARD BOWER
VS MATT GOLENOR**



Black Panther is the Movie This Generation Needs!

By Jackson Francis

(*Warning: Spoilers Ahead*)

The Marvel movie *Black Panther* is an excellent superhero film that is exciting, funny, and action-packed, but it is also a film that addresses many important issues in today's society. Black Panther is a fictional character who was created in 1966 by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. The current Black Panther is King T'Challa, king of the fictional country Wakanda. The country of Wakanda, located in Africa, is very rich and very technologically advanced. Wakanda gains its wealth from the mineral called Vibranium. The mineral came to Earth through a meteor that crashed into Earth. Vibranium is used in almost everything in Wakanda, including clothes. With Vibranium, the country has hidden itself for centuries, bypassing the history that other African nations have gone through. It was not found or colonized by the Europeans during the Age of Exploration, but Wakanda has been fully aware of what goes on outside of it. The Black Panther has been the protector of Wakanda since the very beginning of its history. The mantle of the Black Panther is passed down from generation to generation. The Black Panther has heightened abilities that the person gains from consuming a plant called "Heart Shaped Herb."

The movie takes place right after the events of *Captain America: Civil War*. King T'Chaka, T'Challa's father, has just died which leaves the role of king to T'Challa, who returns home to Wakanda to settle the political unrest. While there, he has to go through a ceremony where he defeats King M'Baku of the Jabari Tribe to be crowned king, but this is only the beginning of the movie. Next, the movie goes to a scene at a museum where Erik Stevens a.k.a. Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) and Ulysses Klaue (Andy Serkis), the two main villains of the movie, steal an artifact from the museum that is actually Vibranium. This theft prompts King T'Challa to try and take it back from Klaue, who is Wakanda's number one enemy because he stole a horde of Vibranium and in the process killed many Wakandans, but he was never caught. Klaue ends up escaping from T'Challa with the aid of Killmonger, but Killmonger is only working with Klaue to get a way into Wakanda. Killmonger ends up killing Klaue as a peace offering to get into Wakanda. Killmonger wants to get into Wakanda so bad because he wants to challenge T'Challa for the throne. The movie reveals that Killmonger is actually T'Challa's cousin. Killmonger's father is the little brother of T'Challa's father, but Killmonger's father helped Klaue steal Vibranium. Killmonger and his father live in Oakland, California at this point of the movie, so they see injustice and black people being wronged frequently. Killmonger's father thinks the Vibranium can help liberate the oppressed black people all over the world, but King T'Chaka and the other Wakandans have a "Wakanda first" mentality, so he ends up killing Killmonger's father, leaving Killmonger an orphan as a very young child. He later ends up going to MIT and joins the special

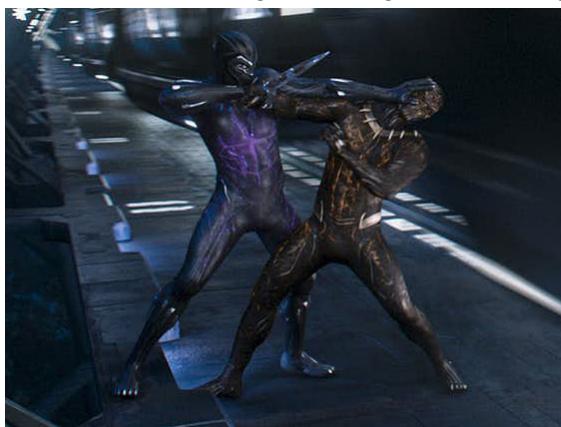


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operations of the US military where he earns his nickname Killmonger because he killed so many people during his time in the military. Killmonger ends up challenging T'Challa for the throne and wins. He throws T'Challa off a cliff, but T'Challa returns to defeat Killmonger in an incredible fight scene. Killmonger's main objective was to spread Wakanda's resources and materials to the world where he was going to start a revolution to help oppressed black people all over the world. In a post credit scene, T'Challa is in Oakland, California at the place where he will begin the first Wakandan Outreach center.

Another main factor in this movie are the women. They symbolize strength, knowledge, and power. Okoye (Danai Gurira) is the commanding general of the Dora Milaje which is an all-female special force group that protects Wakanda alongside the Black Panther. They helped T'Challa all throughout the movie and play a vital role in the end fight scene against Killmonger. Another strong female character is Princess Shuri, who is the baby sister of T'Challa. She adds a lot of comic relief in the movie but is also head of the technology of Wakanda. She creates new technology for T'Challa and also other amazing tech for Wakanda. The next main female figure in the movie is T'Challa's mother who is played by Angela Bassett. The last main female character in the movie is Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o) who is the love interest of T'Challa. All of these female actors have a huge impact on the movie.



This movie was extraordinary. It is a lighthearted movie with serious and deep messages. Michael B. Jordan was fantastic as Killmonger, a villain whom many people can relate to and can understand where his rage and frustration come from. Chadwick Boseman was also fantastic as the Black Panther a.k.a. King T'Challa. He portrays a strong and patient king really well. The director, Ryan Coogler who also directed *Creed* and *Fruitvale Station*, did an amazing job bringing Wakanda to life. The script was fantastic, and the visuals and acting were amazing. This movie had a 95% black cast. This factor is important in times like these because it gives hope to the people, and it inspires young black children to be better. The movie reveals to young black children that people who look like them can make it. The cast in this movie represents the black community well with actors like Forrest Whitaker, Daniel Kaluuya, Martin Freeman, Winston Duke, and Sterling K. Brown. It also empowers women because the female roles in this movie are very important, strong, and intelligent. This movie celebrates African language, culture, and traditions, setting it apart from many movies. This movie was all around a wonderful movie, and I recommend that everyone go and see it. You will not be disappointed.

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THE HORROR CORNER

Movie Reviews

By KJ Scruggs

Welcome back horror fans. As you know, yesterday, April 1, was April Fools Day. While it is meant to be a day filled with hilarious pranks, it can also be spent watching bloody, scary horror movies. I have just the things to set back your pranks. You should know by now that there will be spoilers ahead.

Friday the 13th

Friday the 13th is a movie about a mother who has a deformed son. The mother, Pamela Voorhees, is working as a cook at Camp Crystal Lake. Her son, Jason Voorhees, is being made fun of by some of the other campers. While the counselors aren't paying attention, Jason goes for a swim and ends up drowning. Pamela blames her son's death on the camp counselors, and she ends up going on a killing spree. She kills the counselors one-by-one until there is only one counselor left, Alice. Alice beheads Ms. Voorhees with a machete and surprisingly her son Jason watches as she is beheaded. Jason is better known than Ms. Voorhees because who could forget Jason's hockey mask? *Friday the 13th* has recently been turned into a video game. The game is awesome because not only do you get to play as a counselor and try to



survive Jason's wrath, but also you get to play as Jason and experience the killing spree in person. I would give the game and the movie 8 out of 10 knives. ⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️

Scream

The first thing that probably comes to mind is ghost-face. *Scream* is so much more than that. *Scream* shows how anyone can just snap. The main storyline takes place in a small town named Woodsboro. Sidney Prescott, the girl who survives in all four movies, is targeted by a masked killer, who starts killing people that are close to her one-by-one. The killer finally unmasks himself/herself and tries to kill Sidney. Of course every unmasking is followed by the villain's ten minute monologue telling the victim what they did to him/her, but who doesn't love an unmasking? Sidney ends up defeating them all in the end, proving her status as a survivor girl. *Scream* was turned into a TV series on MTV. The storyline was different from the movie, but MTV still did a good job on the show. *Scream* is amazing because *scream* can be anyone. *Scream* can be your neighbor, your family, and even your best friend. I suggest watching the movie or the TV series 10/10.

The Ring

The Ring is the story of a

cursed videotape. Once you watch it, you suddenly receive a phone call with someone saying "seven days" meaning that the person who watched it has seven days to live. This story sounds like an urban legend, but it truly is a great movie. In the movie, teens watch the movie as a prank and don't take the message seriously. They die exactly one week after they watch it. The story follows an aunt whose niece has recently died after watching the tape. Throughout the movie, she tracks down the mysterious events that lead to her niece's death. She finds out that in the video a young girl has a smallpox disease which creates a tumor in the throat. We also see her mother throwing her down a well. It is said that whoever watches the video dies because of the disease and leaves a face of terror when they are dead. The movie did have a remake in 2017, but it was awful, and I don't suggest watching that one. I would give this an 8 out of 10 knives. ⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️⚔️

There actually is an April Fool's Day horror movie, but I didn't watch the movie because the trailer looked awful. But, I guess you can't judge a book by its cover, so do what you want. I hope your April Fool's Day was filled with hilarious and bloody pranks.

Italian Plumber Tours the World!

By McConnico Sharpe

Everyone knows Mario, the mustachioed Italian plumber who kicked off the massive success of the video game company, Nintendo. Mario has appeared in nearly 200 games, and in this article I will be reviewing his latest one.

In this game, Mario once again goes head to hat with (surprise, surprise) his arch nemesis Bowser. During a fight on Bowser's giant airship, Mario falls off and plummets towards the cap kingdom... and so the game begins. This game is very unique in that it changes many aspects of a regular *Mario* title, yet still keeps the charm that everyone associates with these games. The story is as simple as they come; the princess has been kidnapped by Bowser, and Mario has to go to a bunch of different



kingdoms to collect "power moons" to keep his ship going and save her. But nobody buys this game for its in-depth, intricate story.

What really makes *Super Mario Odyssey* is the game play and style. It is still mainly a platformer where jumping up, over, and around obstacles and enemies mostly gets the job done, but what sets *Odyssey* apart the most from other entries in the series is Mario's sidekick in this adventure, Cappy, who opens up a whole new arsenal of moves for Mario to use in his world-wide adventure. The most useful, however, is the capture ability (get it, CAPture?), which allows Mario to take control of enemies and objects like goombas, T-rexes, and even zippers. Each thing Mario captures has a different special ability or power that Mario can use to help him on his journey. The many

different kingdoms Mario travels to also is a great part of the game. Each one is different from the last and can range from a misty dark Burton-esque hat world to a forest watered by robots!

My two personal favorites are the Metro Kingdom and (bit of a SPOILER here) the Mushroom Kingdom. There are two main collectibles in the game, power moons

and purple coins. Power moons are used to get to the next kingdom or costume until eventually they just become a collectible that adds many fun hours to the game. Purple coins are specific to each kingdom and are used to buy kingdom-specific items in the crazy cap. The crazy cap is a store where you can buy many fun and interesting costumes that fit with a kingdom's theme or is a callback to a previous *Mario* title. Despite how many things there are to collect, getting a large amount of them is actually surprisingly manageable and fun, and if you really have trouble (like me), you can spend the in-game coins to get hints! One last thing, in the new update a new mode was added, Luigi's balloon world. In this mode you choose between either hiding a balloon in a kingdom or trying to find another person's balloon. It is a quick and easy way to get lots of coins, and you can even look for balloons hidden by your friends!

Overall, the game is a blast with so many things to do and see. So, if you have a Nintendo switch... what are you waiting for? It's time to see the world!



Examples of the creatures of Mario's transformations.



A Continuing SAGA...

By McConnico Sharpe

For those of you who do not know, *SAGA* is a comic book series written by Brian K. Vaughan and illustrated by Fiona Staples. It is centered around Marko and Alana, a husband and wife of two eternally warring races, who have a child together named Hazel. The series follows them as they constantly avoid and fight the many forces trying to kill them, all the while, raising their daughter in a galaxy fraught with war. If you want to catch up with the series, there are eight volumes currently in the library ready for checkout. *Issue #49* begins with showing The Will, a famous bounty hunter, naked and completely at the mercy of his captor, Ianthe. This scene reveals how far he has fallen, and how pathetic and helpless he is now. They soon discover that Marko and Alana have already left, along with the other inhabitants of the planet. The Will then asks Ianthe to slit his throat and put him out of his misery, but she remains to keep him alive to show him that he is just a black hole that brings destruction to all he holds dear, which really is the truth about him.

Next the issue jumps to the treehouse where Prince Robot IV's face accidentally shows Petrichor (his non-robot lover) that the Prince loves her. This moment puts fractures in their relationship as Petrichor believes that the love they have is just a fling, and it is impossible for them to really be together, fully ignoring how happy Alana and Marko are despite their



differences. Doff and Upsher then meet with Marko and Alana during breakfast to get their permission to publish their story. They tell Marko and Alana that there is a way for them to completely change theirs and their daughter's DNA and keep them safe. Both refuse, knowing that Hazel's differences are what make her special. I find this point interesting as they give up a chance to stop running because they know that their daughter is strong, and she can survive being just as she is. The next page shows Hazel and Prince Robot IV's son, Squire, getting into a fight. Ghüs soon comes and tells them to work out their problems with words. Squire then insults Hazel, and she comments about his not having a mom. Adult Hazel's thoughts are then shown on the page. She states that she was grateful that she was able to see Squire's face then and to see how hurt he was by her actions. In that moment Hazel realizes how much she does not want to hurt people and is very upset. Prince Robot IV then approaches Doff and Upsher with a proposition. The Prince has information about what happened to a populated comet that had been destroyed by what most people assume were natural causes, but in return, he wishes for the same

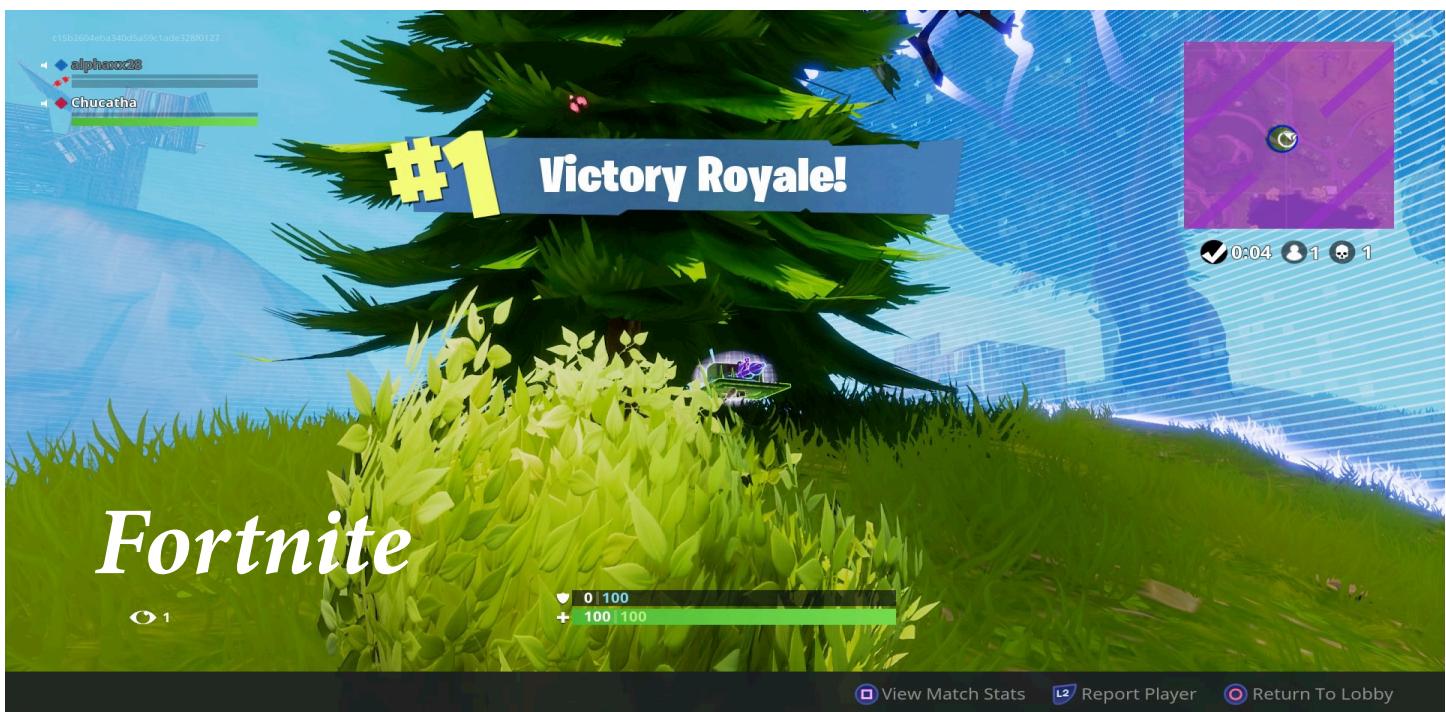
deal offered to Alana and Marko. The issue ends with his asking for them to accept the deal while his face repeatedly flashes the ominous phrases "Please say no. This story will be the death of us. Please say no."

Overall, I thought *Saga Issue #49* was a very quick, yet thoughtful story, focusing on many personal developments rather than action.

I hope this review has encouraged you to take a look at this unique series.



Prince Robot IV



By Carter Ozburn

Fortnite hit the seventh grade hard, very hard. It is a free game, based on a multi-player game called *Player Unknown's Battleground*. You start the game by dropping out of the battle bus onto a very large map. Then, you start to collect weapons in houses and structures. When you start, you only have a primitive pickax that does only 10 damage. You can collect ARs, SMGs, rocket launchers, crossbows, sniper rifles, grenades, consumable items, mini-guns, grenade launchers, shotguns, and pistols. These items have different damage outputs, based on their rarities. There are five levels of rarities: Commons, Uncommons, Rares, Epics, and Legendaries. ARs and SMGs are mostly used for mid-range combat. Crossbows and sniper rifles are mostly used for long-range combat. Pistols, shotguns, and grenades are used for melee and close-range combat. Rocket launchers, mini-guns, and grenade launchers are used for destroying bases. One of *Fortnite*'s differences from *PUBG* is that you can build structures from resources found around the map. You can build walls, floors, stairs, and pyramids. You can also edit these buildings to make doors, windows, archways and more. The building aspect of this game really separates it from other multi-player battle royale games. Because it is free, it obviously offers in-game purchases and DLC. This option is very tempting, as your starting skin looks horrible and changes from male to female between matches.

Fortnite is so fun because you don't lose anything for losing. However, if you are grinding at two in the morning, you are never going to win. Why? Because you will be walking into Salty Springs thinking to yourself, 'there is nobody here.' Then, out of nowhere, a 24-year old addict will absolutely murder you with a shotgun. I guess, my advice is to never grind too hard with *Fortnite* because you might come across those level 100s who are addicted.

Fortnite is a fun game, filled with excitement and boogie bombs. I would highly recommend it. Here is a brief transcribed interview with Ryan Sharifi about *Fortnite*. Unfortunately, it seems like the owners of *Call of Duty* are going to buy *Fortnite* from Epic Games. The game will now cost \$10.

CO: Why do you like *Fortnite*?

RS: I like *Fortnite* because it offers a challenge. It challenges me to win and become one of the greatest.

CO: What is your weapon of choice?

RS: Golden SCAR! I love golden SCARs because they are a very useful mid-range gun and because of all the YouTube videos about it.

CO: What are your usual drop spots?

RS: I usually land at the prison or sometimes this small factory near Flush. They usually have good loot at the right time.



2018 Winter Olympics: One of America's Worst Performances

By Lawson Patterson

The 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea was a rather disappointing outing for the U.S. Winter Team. While America reached a major milestone in collecting its 100th Winter Olympic Gold Medal by Shaun White, the U.S. did come in fourth place overall, and the Stars and Stripes managed to have their worst year in the Winter events in over 20 years, only securing 23 medals. If 23 medals is not bad enough, the U.S. sent 242 athletes to compete, when a country such as Norway won first place with 39 medals and did so with only 109 athletes.

The reason for the lackluster showing was simply under-performance and failure to meet high expectations. Stars such as Nathan Chen and Mikaela Shiffrin had decent performances in their respective sports of Alpine skiing and figure skating; however, they failed to perform despite all of the attention surrounding them. The U.S. also came in 4th, 5th, and 6th place a total of 26 times, another major reason for the mediocre results.

Though the poor outcome



was not expected, these Olympics have not been America's rock bottom. In Sapporo, Japan, in 1972, the U.S. came in sixth, winning a scarce 8 medals. During the Winter Olympics in 1998 in Nagano, Japan, the Americans again placed sixth, but with 13 medals for that specific Olympics. The fact that these Olympics are held in Asia does play a role in the below average results. The American athletes have to adjust to different time zones and weather, which can seriously affect a human's mind before a huge sporting event.

Most expected a better performance from the U.S., but they did not receive their wish as America finished -10.8 medals behind projections. This outcome is the worst overall in the Winter Olympics and in U.S. Winter Olympic history. The main liability was other countries being able to go out and win, while America was clearly not prepared. The Americans lost out on all medals to the top three final placers, Germany, Norway, and Canada by placing 18 times out of their total of 26 placings in 4th, 5th, and 6th.

These Olympics have been the first since 1998 in which the U.S. did not receive more medals than

Canada because America simply did not win big in a significant amount of major categories. Winning gold in curling, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, alpine skiing, and hockey was just not enough to give the U.S. a positive reception from fans.

With Team USA's overall disappointing showing, the American people and athletes are reminded that the remorse is not permanent, and they will sure bounce back in full spirits for the next Winter Olympics in Beijing, 2022.

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BEIJING 2022™



A Team Basketball

By Kayman Cooke

Viewed as one of the best Microbe Basketball teams to go through MBA, this year's team had a season that was nothing short of spectacular. With a 16-1 overall record and a 12-0 league record, the team would end the magnificent season with an HVAC Championship plaque being held high at center court.

The Big Red began their season with a rivalry win at Brentwood Academy 45-36. After the early season warm-up, the team then entered the Overbrook Tournament with wins over Grace Christian by the score of 71-17, and a win over a tough Davidson Academy team 49-43. The Big Red lost their only game of the season to the hot shooting of CPA, losing by a score of 42-36 in the semi-final game of the Overbrook Tournament.

After winter break, the team came back with a ferocious attitude and made it their mission to win every game left on the schedule. The team's newly found swagger would lead to multiple blowout victories including: Valor (74-19), Lipscomb (50-22), USN (46-29), DCA (49-10), and Battle Ground Academy (64-27), a game played with only eight players. The team would also have key wins against tough conference competitors such as Goodpasture (44-31), Brentwood Middle School (32-28), Ensworth (61-39), CPA(34-14), USN (46-29), and Brentwood Academy (41-33). This momentum would carry the Big Red to a first-round bye and a semi-final matchup against CPA.



The 2018 HVAC Champions!

The Big Red had a tough, hard fought first half in the semi-final game to have a 19-16 score with the lead going into halftime. The Big Red used a strong defensive effort in the third quarter to score points, holding CPA to only three points the entire quarter. The team would carry the effort into the fourth to defeat CPA 46-30 in the HVAC semi-finals. The team celebrated briefly and immediately turned their focus to their final task, the school's first HVAC Championship in basketball since the 2013-2014 Microbe Basketball Season.

After one day of preparation, the Big Red squared-off against the now fully-manned USN team. The team went in with a "strictly business" attitude and none of the usual loose attitudes prior to games. The team knew this would be the most important and challenging game of the season. As the game began, emotions and nerves ran high as fans on both sides were into the game early, and the Big Red fell behind 8-1 at the end of the first quarter. Physicality was present throughout the game as well as lots of talk amongst players on both teams. The team began to catch their stride as transition offense

came from key defensive stops and foul trouble on USN, who had little depth off the bench. The Big Red tied the game at halftime at a score of 15-15. The team would take this momentum into the second half of the game and run away with a well-deserved 37-31 victory to win the school's first HVAC Basketball Championship since the 2013-2014 season. The team enjoyed a long-awaited locker room celebration after the game that will not be forgotten for a long time.

The team would like to thank Coach Jackson and Coach Davis for the outstanding job they both did this past season. The team would also like to thank the students and faculty who supported them throughout the team's run to the title.



*Photos Courtesy of Carolyn Thombs
Photography*

B Team Basketball

By Ian Durelli

The Montgomery Bell Academy B basketball team had a great season. The team was composed of the following players: Andrew Smith, Claiborne Richards, Colin Kerrigan, Jackson Rishel, Logan Watts, Peyton Alexander, Wyatt Walters, Carson Mire, Coleman Roddey, Ian Durelli, Maxwell Potts, Ryan DeCoster, and our team manager Liam Campbell.

Every player contributed to the team with points, assists, and steals. Big man DeCoster frequently lit up the court down low with double digits most every game. Peyton and Andrew both had exceedingly great seasons behind the arc as well. The real stud, however, was not the players, but the manager. Liam always made sure those water bottles were filled,



and he came to all of the practices and games. Along with Liam, Coach Todd Moran was vital to our great season. He was very patient with me when I left my game jerseys, missed the bus, caused a technical foul for not wearing the correct jersey, or when I missed the turn-in date for the jerseys.

Some of the teams highlights included a buzzer-beating three pointer by Carson Mire and a beautifully executed reverse layup and almost dunk by Ryan Decoster. Although we lost a scrimmage and a tournament, we only lost one season game. We played well together, and it was a fun season.

To anyone considering playing basketball, try out for the team, even if you know you might not make the A team. Even if you did not play this year or did not make the team this year, still attempt it again. Coleman Roddey was injured last year and did not make the team, yet this year made the B team and proved to be one of the best players. If you do not have a sport, there is always a need for managers. This spot would allow you to watch basketball if you like doing so, and practices for the B team are much shorter than most sports.

One thing to note is The B team often has early games, so you get to leave eighth period frequently. This factor is good to keep in mind if you are on the team next year. One time I forgot this fact and went to the locker room after school at 3:20 only to find out that the bus left at 2:45. Do not make the same mistake I did if you are on the team or any other sport.



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C Team Basketball

By Connor Carr

The C team basketball team had a great season with a final record of 9-3. Our coach Amos Gregory knew our strengths and weaknesses, and he pushed us so that we could be the best we could be. We had a slow start to our season, but soon we picked it up and started winning. We had thirteen boys on the team, and every single one contributed every game. Andrew Dovan was our main contributor, playing the three position. His incredible ability to drive mixed with his speed made him nearly unstoppable. Unfortunately, Andrew suffered an arm injury and missed the last game of the season. Another huge contributor was Keen Zoller. Keen was the owner of the post. After Coach Gregory

taught him a few post moves, he started getting wide-open layups. Unfortunately, Keen suffered a knee injury and had to miss the last three games. Evan Viars had the best shot on the team. Evan is the reason we won some of the closer games because he used his shot to go on ten-point streaks. Grayson Soper made it clear to everyone that he was in the game. He is the toughest person on the team, and he won't go down without a fight. Grayson was a master in the post, but preferred to be a point guard or shooting guard. Geoffrey Woodyard was our shifty point guard. With his handles, he could easily get to the rim anytime he needed to. Henry Roberts was our other point guard, who stole the show with his amazing shot. Henry's basketball IQ is higher than most that play the game. Hogan Walker proved vital in our last three games with his great pump fake and drive. He had a deadly three pointer, which would spark some big comebacks. Thomas Harwell

was another shifty point guard who could get around anyone. He proved to be one of our best defenders and always guarded the other team's best player. Browning Trainer had great court vision and knew where to be and when to get there to get the open shot. Jack Spellman picked up the pace and really showed his speed off to the team. His speed helped him get to the rim easily. Alex Deerkoski had an exceptional talent for driving the ball and getting to the rim, which got our team a lot of points. Edward Herlitzka was our other big man, who loved to go to the rim and get the foul. Luckily, he was a great free throw shooter. Our final player, Connor Carr, liked to pick-and-roll a lot and get easy baskets that way.

All-in-all, we had a great season this year, and we all continued to improve. It was so much fun hanging out with the guys on the team everyday. I can't wait for basketball season next year.



The 2018 Microbe C Basketball Team



Photo by Smith Zoller

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